

REMARKS

Applicant requests that the text inserted via the Examiner's amendment presented in the Notice of Allowability be deleted from the instant application as it is inappropriate and not required. Since the international application is not an earlier application (it has the same filing date as the allowed national stage application), a benefit claim under 35 U.S.C. 120 in the national stage to the international application is inappropriate. MPEP §1893.03(c)(IV). The "Note" in this portion of the MPEP further states that "Accordingly, it is not necessary for the applicant to amend the first sentence(s) of the specification to reference the international application number that was used to identify the application during international processing of the application by the international authorities prior to commencement of the national stage." For at least these reasons, Applicant requests that the text of the Examiner's amendment be deleted from the allowed application.

A favorable response is earnestly requested. Should there be any remaining issues that could be readily addressed over the telephone, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned at 952.854.2700, ext. 16.

Respectfully submitted,

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